

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new). A method for switching on a power switch disposed between capacitive elements, which comprises the steps of:

connecting at least one compensating element for equalizing currents flowing between the capacitive elements which are to be connected to one another and can decay before the power switch is subsequently closed in a current-free and no-voltage situation, the compensating element being connected in parallel to switching contacts of the power switch which is in an open position.

Claim 12 (new). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises delaying the parallel connection of the compensating element with respect to a switch-on command for switching on the power switch by a first delay time.

Claim 13 (new). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises switching-on of the power switch only after an equalizing current has decayed and only when a second delay time beginning with a switch-on command has elapsed.

Claim 14 (new). A device for switching on a power switch disposed between capacitive elements, comprising:

a further switch;

a compensating element functioning as a choke can be connected in parallel with switching contacts of the power switch in a still open position through said further switch;

a detection circuit for detecting a current flowing between the capacitive elements which are to be connected to one another; and

a control device for closing the power switch as soon as no equalizing current flowing by way of said choke is detected by said detection circuit.

Claim 15 (new). The device according to claim 14, further comprising a resistor connected in series with said choke, said resistor being selected from the group consisting of an ohmic resistor of said choke and a real resistor.

Claim 16 (new). The device according to claim 14, wherein

said control device has a terminal; and

said detection circuit includes:

a ground terminal;

a first series circuit containing a first resistor and an emitter-collector path of a first pnp transistor, said first series circuit connected to a first terminal point of said choke and said first pnp transistor having a collector and a base; and

a second series circuit containing a second resistor and an emitter-collector path of a second pnp transistor, said second series circuit connected to a second terminal point of said choke and said second pnp transistor having a base and a collector connected to said collector of said first pnp transistor;

a third series circuit containing a third and a fourth resistor connected between said collectors and said ground terminal;

a fourth series circuit containing a first diode conducting current to said ground terminal and a fifth resistor, said fourth series circuit connected

between said first terminal point and said ground terminal;

a fifth series circuit containing a second diode conducting current to said ground terminal and a sixth resistor, said fifth series circuit disposed between said second terminal point and said ground terminal;

a seventh resistor connected between a connection point between said first diode and said fifth resistor and said base of said second pnp transistor;

an eighth resistor connected between a connection point between said second diode and said sixth resistor and said base of said first pnp transistor;

a third npn transistor having a base, a collector and an emitter connected to said ground terminal, said base of said third npn transistor connected to a connection point between said third and fourth resistors; and

a ninth resistor connected on a first side to a supply voltage and a second side to said collector of said third npn transistor and to said terminal of said control device.

Claim 17 (new). The device according to claim 14, wherein said control device includes:

a first delay element for delaying the parallel connection of said choke to said power switch being in an open position by a predefined first delay time starting from a switch-on command; and

a second delay element being a monoflop permitting a switch-on of the power switch at an earliest after a second delay time has elapsed which is longer than the first delay time and starts running at a beginning of the switch-on command.

Claim 18 (new). The device according to claim 14, wherein a switching-off of the

power switch takes place at an end of a switch-on command.

Claim 19 (new). The device according to claim 17, wherein for connecting one of the capacitive elements to other ones of the capacitive elements:

said further switch is a changeover switch;

said first delay element is a dual-edge triggered delay element;

said second delay element is a dual-edge triggered monoflop; and

the power switch is opened upon the appearance of the switch-on command, which functions as a changeover command.

Claim 20 (new). The device according to claim 14, wherein the power switch is a plurality of relay-controlled switches.